

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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FOR BLANE FROM AF/W SHERWOOD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, BANJUL, BRUSSELS, DAKAR, NIAMEY,
NDJAMENA, NOUAKCHOTT, OUAGADOUGOU AND PARIS FROM BAMAKO MAR 18
REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

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AFDROUGHT

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SUBJ: CILSS MEETING, MARCH 15-16

1. SUMMARY: CILSS-DONORS MEETING HELD BAMAKO MARCH 15-16.
IN ADDITION TO DELEGATIONS FROM THE SEVEN MEMBER STATES,
CONFERENCE ALSO ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BILATERAL
DONOR COUNTRIES, UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, FED, IBRD
AND VARIOUS AFRICAN AND AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
CILSS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ANTOINE DAKOURE MADE PLEA FOR
CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO SAHELIAN STATES THROUGH CILSS CHANNEL,
ASKING AT SAME TIME THAT DONORS FRAME THEIR PROGRAMS IN LINE
WITH PROJECT LIST ADOPTED AT OUAGADOUGOU LAST SEPT AND
SUBSEQUENTLY AMPLIFIED BY UN (STEINER) TASK FORCE.

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DONOR SPOKESMEN ALL MADE MORE OR LESS SPECIFIC COM-

MITMENTS TO WORK TO SOME DEGREE THROUGH CILSS AND TO BE GUIDED BY CILSS PROJECT LIST. MAJORITY OF DONOR REPS, HOWEVER, STRESSED NEED TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES WITHIN CILSS LIST AND CALLED FOR ADOPTION OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR ZONE TO ENSURE HARMONIZATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROJECTS. ALL PARTIES AGREED ON NEED FOR CONTINUED CLOSE COORDINATION OF EFFORT THROUGH CILSS MECHANISM, THOUGH CERTAIN DONORS ALSO STRESSED NEED TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH INDIVIDUAL GOVTS ON CERTAIN NATIONAL PROJECTS IN ORDER SAVE TIME.

2. MEETING WAS WELL ORCHESTRATED BY DAKOURE IN TERMS OF GETTING AFRICAN OFFICIALS AND MOST DONORS TO MAKE STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CILSS CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE. ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRAMMING WERE RELATIVELY SMOOTH AND DONOR REPS BY AND LARGE SAID WHAT DAKOURE WANTED TO HEAR. BELIEVE CILSS IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY MEETING, AND POSITION OF DAKOURE REINFORCED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER CILSS CAN CARRY OUT PROJECT COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES IT HAS CLAIMED AND WHETHER MEMBER STATES AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL, IN PRACTICE, BE WILLING GIVE OVER TO CILSS SIGNIFICANT PART OF THEIR TRADITIONALLY BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH DONOR STATES AND AGENCIES. END SYMMARY

3. MEETING WAS OPENED BY MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE, WHO MADE SHARP REFUTATION OF ASSERTIONS BY "INTERNATIONAL DETRACTORS" THAT SAHELIAN STATES LA DONORS HAD BEEN IDLE OR NEGLIGENT IN FACT OF LAST YEAR'S CRISIS. HE CALLED CHARGES OF GENOCIDE AGAINST NOMADS "CRIMINAL LIES". AFTER NOTING IMMENSITY OF TASK AHEAD, TRAORE ENDED ON OPTIMISTIC NOTE, SAYING THAT OTHER DESERTS HAD BEEN DEFEATED AND SO WOULD THE SAHARA.

4. SPEAKING NEXT, CILSS CHAIRMAN ANTOINE DAKOURE DECLARED FOUR PRINCIPAL CILSS PRIORITIES TO BE (A) WATER MANAGEMENT; (B) RECONSTITUTION OF HERDS; (C) ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS TO RETARD DESERTIFICATION; AND (C) ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS. SAID THESE PRIORITIES APPLY TO BOTH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS. WHILE ADMITTING DEGREE OF PREPARATION OF PROJECTS ON UN COMPENDIUM WAS UNEVEN, DAKOURE URGED DONOR COMMITMENT TO COMPENDIUM AND ASKED THAT IMPLEMENTATION NOT BE DELAYED BY EXHAUSTIVE STUDIES.

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5. DAKOURE FURTHER APPEALED TO DONORS TO DO NOTHING IN THEIR BILATERAL DEALINGS WITH THE SAHELIAN GOVTS TO UNDERMINE CILSS COORDINATING EFFORT. HE INSISTED THAT DONORS RESPECT CILSS PRIORITIES,

WHICH REFLECT AFRICAN PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, AND TO CUT PROJECT APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION RED TAPE TO MINIMUM. DAKOURE CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON FEASIBILITY CRITERIA

AND RELAXATION OF TOO RIGID REQUIREMENTS IN LIGHT OF DESPERATE
CONDITIONS EXISTING IN SAHEL.

6. DAKOURE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION THAT DONORS UNABLE GIVE
FIRM FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OVER LONGER TIME FRAME, AT LEAST
4-5 YEARS, HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED LIMITING EFFECT OF NORMAL BUDGETARY
PROCEDURES BUT URGED THAT WAYS BE FOUND TO OVERCOME THEM.

7. DAKOURE ANNOUNCED THAT PERMANENT CILSS STRUCTURES WERE BEING
ESTABLISHED WITH BUREAUS FOR (A) ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS;
(B) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS; (C) FOREIGN AND PUBLIC RELATIONS; AND
(C) DOCUMENTATION (WHICH WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL DONORS.) HE DID NOT
INDICATE TIME FRAME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY
.

8. DAKOURE SAID QUESTION HAD BEEN POSED BY DONORS AS TO HOW CILSS
PROPOSED TO FACILITATE AN COORDINATE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL
PROJECTS. HE ANSWERED: NATIONAL PROJECTS: CILSS WILL HELP
NATIONAL GOVTS PROGRAM DONOR RESOURCES AND FRAME REQUESTS TO
INDIVIDUAL DONORS ON BASIS OF PROJECT DOSSIERS THAT CILSS WILL
HELP PREPARE; REGIONAL PROJECTS; CILSS PROPOSES ORGANIZING A
JOINT DONOR TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE CRITERIA AND DO STUDIES WHOSE
RESULTS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL DONORS. CILSS WILL COLLECT AND
STORE TECHNICAL DATA FOR ALL REGIONAL PROJECTS ON LIST AND WILL
MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO ALL PROSPECTIVE DONORS; REGIONAL
ORGANIZATION PROJECTS: CILSS WILL SERVE TO BRING DONORS AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS TOGETHER ON DROUGHT ASSOCIATED PROJECTS.
HE PROMISED CILSS WILL NOT INTERFERE IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN
NON-DROUGHT ASSOCIATED FIELDS.

9. STEINER OF UN DROUGHT OFFICE EXPLAINED HIS TASK FORCE HAD
CONSULTE
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